



## Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook February 28 – March 6, 2019

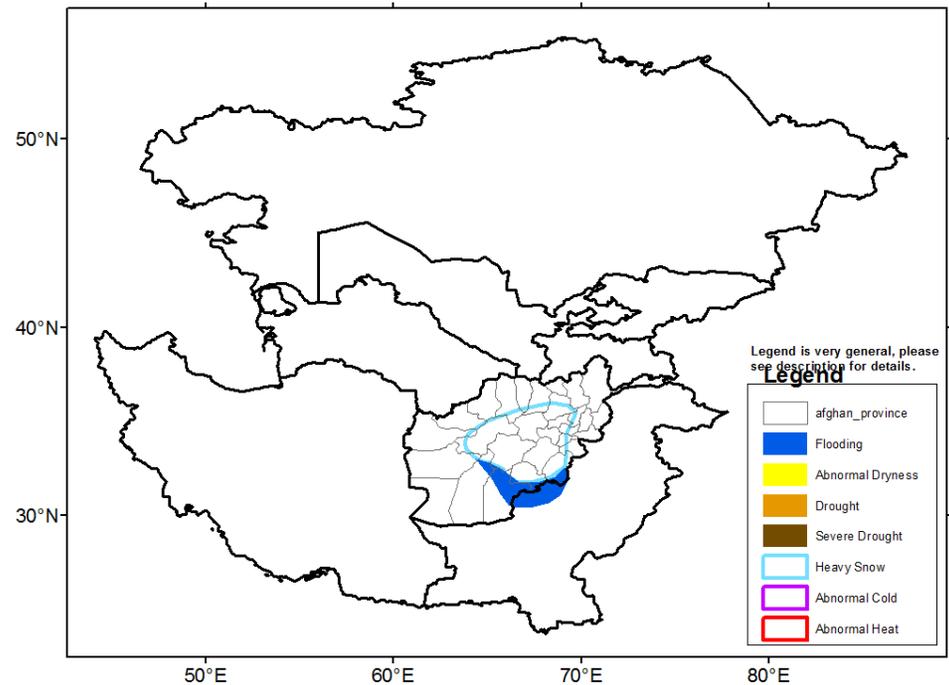
### **Temperatures:**

Near to above-normal temperatures were observed throughout the region from February 17 to 23 with the largest positive anomalies (5 to 10 degrees C) across northern Kazakhstan. The GFS model indicates a variable temperature pattern during the first week of March with below normal temperatures overspreading the region from west to east by March 4 and 5. Minimum temperatures are forecast to fall below -15 degrees C in northwest Kazakhstan later in the outlook period, while temperatures are expected to remain above freezing across the lower elevations of Afghanistan. Maximum temperatures are forecast to warm above 25 degrees C in southwest Afghanistan.

### **Precipitation**

Widespread heavy, precipitation fell across much of Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and southern areas of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Gauge observations recorded as much as 50 to 75 mm, liquid equivalent across northern and eastern Afghanistan. According to the RFE satellite estimates, 90-day precipitation has averaged above normal throughout most of Afghanistan. However, above average temperatures resulted in relatively high snow levels and areas of below normal snow water equivalent (SWE) amounts. According to the USGS analysis, negative SWE anomalies are observed in western Ghazni province and parts of Badakhshan province.

A strong low pressure system is forecast to track east across Afghanistan on March 1 and 2. Heavy snow (more than 30 cm) is forecast to accompany this low pressure system in the central highlands and perhaps eastern Afghanistan. An increased risk of flooding exists across southeast Afghanistan where precipitation remains mostly rain.



**Note: The Hazards outlook map is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), and assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.**